



Voting Information News

October 2004 ☞ Vol. 14, No. 10

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Voting Assistance Officers

“To Do” This Month:

- ✓ Plan your Absentee Voting Week activities (October 11-15). Remind voters of the deadlines for mailing ballots to their state and announce through various media that voters should return their voted ballot immediately upon receiving it!
- ✓ Note that a few states require absentee ballots to arrive prior to election day!
- ✓ Ensure people know how to get in touch with you for absentee voting assistance. Set aside time to assist those with absentee voting questions. Don't forget the Federal Voting Assistance Program is here to help you if you cannot find the information you need locally.
- ✓ Overseas VAOs, ensure you have adequate supplies of Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots (FWAB) for voters you assist. Refer to the 2004-05 Voting Assistance Guide and the September issue of this newsletter for important information on the FWAB (visit www.fvap.gov).

A roundup of voting news from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) for voters, potential voters and those who assist voters.

The Presidential and Vice Presidential Debates

The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) has joined with the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD) to make this fall's debates more valuable to Americans abroad. DebateWatch is the CPD's nonpartisan, international program that brings U.S. citizens together to watch and discuss this fall's presidential and vice presidential debates.

Throughout the world, DebateWatch participants will meet in schools, libraries, theaters, hotels, civic auditoriums, homes, and elsewhere to watch the debates on television or the Internet, or listen to them on the radio. At the end of each debate and before commentary begins, the DebateWatch facilitator will turn off the broadcast and lead participants in a discussion about the debate, the candidates, and the upcoming election. After finishing their discussion, participants may log on to the CPD's

website, www.debates.org, to fill out a voluntary survey and provide feedback to the CPD. To learn more about DebateWatch or register to organize one, please see www.debates.org or email debatewatch@debates.org.

The CPD was established in 1987 to ensure that debates, as a permanent part of every general election, provide the best possible information to viewers and listeners. Its primary purpose is to sponsor and produce debates for the United States presidential and vice presidential candidates and to undertake research and educational activities relating to the debates. The nonprofit, nonpartisan organization sponsored all the presidential debates in 1988, 1992, 1996 and 2000. More information about the CPD can be found at www.debates.org.

The schedules for this fall's debates are as follows: (Information current as of 15 Sept 04)

First presidential debate	Thursday, September 30
Vice-presidential debate	Tuesday, October 5
Second presidential debate	Friday, October 8
Third presidential debate	Wednesday, October 13

All debates will begin at 9 pm E.T., and will be carried by international media outlets.

Make Sure Your Voted Ballot Arrives In Time To Be Counted!

A vital part of the absentee voting process is voting and returning your ballot in time to be counted. In order to do this, citizens should carefully review all instructions for balloting provided by the state. In addition, to successfully vote and return a ballot, citizens must also comply with ballot return deadlines and postmark requirements. (See page 2 for Ballot Return Deadlines) Correctly meeting all requirements and deadlines will help ensure your ballot arrives in time to be counted in the November 2, 2004 General Election.

Important Note: When mailing your voted ballot, please ask the mail clerk to hand stamp the ballot envelope so that a date is clearly visible. The dated postmark will help ensure that the Local Election Official can make a proper determination of timely mailing. Generally, if a state allows late counting of ballots, the ballot envelope must have been postmarked on or before election day. **In addition, we also recommend citizens always vote and return their regular state absentee ballot up to and including election day.**

State-By-State Ballot Return Deadlines

The following list provides state-by-state deadlines for returning the voted ballot and/or postmark requirements for the November 2, 2004 General Election. States that allow use of the FVAP Electronic Transmission Service (ETS) for the voted ballot will also be noted (**remember to mail the original ballot**). Visit www.fvap.gov for state updates and Appendix C of the *Voting Assistance Guide* for instructions on ETS, including a fax cover sheet. Follow all state requirements (such as [Notary and Witnessing Requirements](#)) in the *Guide* before returning the voted ballot.

Alabama: The Voted Ballot must be postmarked by 5:00 P.M. on November 1, 2004 and received by the county absentee election manager by Noon on November 2, 2004.

Alaska: The Voted Ballot must be postmarked by November 2, 2004 and sent by mail service equal to first class. Voted Ballots mailed from outside the United States, including APO and FPO addresses, must be received by November 17, 2004. Voted Ballots mailed stateside must be received by November 12, 2004. If voting by fax, voted ballots must be received by 8 p.m. (Alaska time) on or before election day.

American Samoa: The Voted Ballot must arrive by 1:30 PM on November 2, 2004.

Arizona: The Voted Ballot must arrive by 7:00 P.M. on November 2, 2004. You may return the voted ballot by fax.

Arkansas: The Voted Ballot must be executed by November 2, 2004 and arrive by 5:00 P.M. on November 12, 2004.

California: The Voted Ballot must arrive by the close of polls (8:00 P.M.) on November 2, 2004.

Colorado: The Voted Ballot must arrive by 7:00 P.M. on November 2, 2004. You may return the voted ballot by fax.

Connecticut: The Voted Ballot must arrive before the close of polls on November 2, 2004.

Delaware: Voted Ballots arriving by Noon on November 1, 2004 will be counted in their entirety (full ballot). Ballots for Federal offices received after Noon on November 1, 2004 but before the close of polls on November 2, 2004 will be counted.

District of Columbia: The Voted Ballot must be postmarked by midnight on November 2, 2004 and arrive by November 12, 2004. Faxing allowed only when military service prevents applicant from receiving absentee ballot and returning the voted ballot within 45 days. See Guide for further instructions.

Florida: The Voted Ballot must be received by the close of polls on November 2, 2004. The Federal office portion of a ballot mailed from outside the United States will be counted if it is dated or postmarked by November 2, 2004 and received by November 12, 2004. Overseas Uniformed Services members may return the voted ballot to the fax number provided by the local Supervisor of Elections.

Georgia: The Voted Ballot must arrive by 7:00 P.M. on November 2, 2004.

Guam: The Voted Ballot must arrive by 8:00 P.M. on November 2, 2004.

Hawaii: The Voted Ballot must arrive by the close of polls on November 2, 2004. You may return the voted ballot by fax if you requested the blank ballot be sent to you by fax. A waiver

of secrecy and ballot must be received by 6 p.m. (Hawaiian Standard Time) on election day.

Idaho: The Voted Ballot must arrive by 8:00 P.M. on November 2, 2004.

Illinois: The Voted Ballot must arrive in sufficient time for it to be delivered to the polling place by 7:00 P.M. on November 2, 2004.

Indiana: Ballot must arrive in sufficient time for it to be delivered to the precinct election board before the close of polls on November 2, 2004. It is recommended that the ballot be mailed to be received by October 29, 2004. You may return the voted ballot by fax.

Iowa: Ballot must be postmarked by November 1, 2004 and arrive by November 8, 2004.

Kansas: Ballots must arrive by close of polls on November 2, 2004. You may return the voted ballot by fax.

Kentucky: Ballots must arrive by the close of polls on November 2, 2004.

Louisiana: Ballots must arrive by November 2, 2004. You may return the voted ballot by fax.

Maine: Ballots must arrive by 8:00 PM on November 2, 2004. In certain emergency situations, such as combat situations, Uniformed Service members may fax the voted ballot.

Maryland: Ballot must be postmarked by November 1, 2004. Ballots mailed from outside the United States must be received by 4:00 PM on November 12, 2004. Ballots mailed stateside must be received by 4:00 PM on November 3, 2004.

Massachusetts: Ballots mailed from within the U.S. must arrive by 8:00 PM on November 2, 2004. Ballots mailed from outside the U.S. must be postmarked by November 2, 2004 and received by November 12, 2004, to be counted.

Michigan: Voted Ballot must arrive by 8:00 PM on November 2, 2004.

Minnesota: Voted Ballot must arrive by the close of polls on November 2, 2004.

Mississippi: Voted Ballot must arrive by 5:00 P.M. on November 1, 2004. You may return the voted ballot by fax.

Missouri: Voted Ballot must arrive before 7:00 P.M. on November 2, 2004.

Montana: Voted Ballot must arrive by 8:00 P.M. on November 2, 2004. See the *Guide* for counties that allow return of voted ballot by fax.

Nebraska: Voted Ballot must be received by the close of polls on November 2, 2004.

Nevada: Voted Ballot must arrive at the local election office by 7:00 P.M. on November 2, 2004.

New Hampshire: Voted Ballot must arrive by 5:00 P.M. on November 2, 2004.

New Jersey: Voted Ballot must arrive at the county board of elections office by the close of polls on November 2, 2004. If you are overseas, you may return the voted ballot by fax, not later than 8 p.m. (EST) on election day. You must also submit the original ballot by airmail together with certification.

(Continued on page 3)

Ballot Return Deadlines (continued)

New Mexico: Voted Ballot must arrive before the close of polls on November 2, 2004. You may return the voted ballot by fax.

New York: Voted Ballot must be postmarked by November 1, 2004 and be received by November 9, 2004. For active duty military, in 2004 only, the deadline for receipt of ballots is November 15, 2004.

North Carolina: Voted Ballot must be returned by 5:00 P.M. on November 1, 2004. Military and civilians serving with U.S. Armed Forces outside the U.S., and Peace Corps members may return the voted ballot by fax.

North Dakota: Voted Ballot must be postmarked by November 1, 2004. Ballots received before the canvassing board meets will be counted (canvassing board meets beginning 3 days after the election). You may return the voted ballot by fax.

Ohio: Voted Ballot must arrive by the close of polls on November 2, 2004. Ballots mailed from outside the United States will be counted if signed and postmarked by the close of polls on November 2, 2004 and received by November 12, 2004.

Oklahoma: Voted Ballot must arrive by 7:00 P.M. on November 2, 2004. Under certain limited circumstances, you may be able to return the voted ballot by fax.

Oregon: Voted Ballot must arrive by 8:00 P.M. on November 2, 2004.

Pennsylvania: Voted Ballot must arrive by 5:00 P.M. on October 29, 2004.

Puerto Rico: Voted Ballot must be postmarked by November 2, 2004 and be received before 3:00 P.M. on November 2, 2004.

Rhode Island: Voted Ballot must arrive by 9:00 P.M. on November 2, 2004. Military and overseas citizens except for "Other" U.S. citizens residing outside the U.S. (FPCA, 8d) may fax the voted ballot.

South Carolina: Voted Ballot must arrive by the close of polls on November 2, 2004. You may return the voted ballot by fax only in declared emergency situations.

South Dakota: Voted Ballot must arrive by the close of polls on November 2, 2004.

Tennessee: Voted Ballot must arrive by the close of polls on November 2, 2004.

Texas: Voted Ballot must be received by the close of polls on November 2, 2004. Ballots mailed from outside the United States will be counted if placed in delivery by 7:00 P.M. on November 2, 2004 and received by November 7, 2004 (no rollover to Monday). Active duty military overseas or spouse or dependant of the member in hostile fire pay, imminent danger pay or combat zone area may fax voted ballot.

Utah: Voted Ballot must be postmarked by November 1, 2004 and be received by the county by Noon on the day of canvassing. Canvassing takes place 7 – 14 days following election. Some counties allow you to return the voted ballot by fax in emergency situations.

Vermont: Voted Ballot must arrive by the close of polls on November 2, 2004.

Virginia: Voted Ballot must arrive by the close of polls on November 2, 2004.

Virgin Islands: Voted Ballot must be postmarked by November 2, 2004 and be received by November 12, 2004. You may fax the voted ballot.

Washington State: Voted Ballot must be postmarked by November 2, 2004 and be received by November 17, 2004. Some counties allow you to return the voted ballot by fax. Visit www.secstate.wa.gov/elections, select County Auditors & Election Departments to find out which counties accept faxing.

West Virginia: Ballot must be voted, signed, dated and mailed by November 2, 2004 and arrive by November 8, 2004.

Wisconsin: Voted Ballot must arrive by the close of polls on November 2, 2004.

Wyoming: Voted Ballot must arrive by the close of polls on November 2, 2004.

Voting Action Officers

Department of State: Office of Overseas Citizens Services

Chief VAO: Mr. Jack Markey, **tel:** (202) 736-4937, **fax:** (202) 647-6201, **E-mail:** markeyjd@state.gov
Deputy VAO: Ms. Bonita Harris, **tel:** (202) 647-5435, **fax:** (202) 647-6201, **E-mail:** harrisbg@state.gov

Service Voting Action Officers

U.S. Dept. of the Army: Mr. James Davis **tel:** (703) 325-4530 **DSN:** 221-4530; **fax:** (703) 325-4532
DSN fax: 221-4532; **E-mail:** davisj@hoffman.army.mil,
https://www.perscomonline.army.mil/tagd/pssd/psb/voting/votingindex.htm

U.S. Dept. of the Navy: LCDR Mark Lofton **tel:** 1-866-U-ASK-NPC (827-5672); **DSN:** 882-4606, **fax:** (901) 874-2054,
DSN fax: 882-2054; **E-mail:** MILL_navyvote@navy.mil, **http://www.persnet.navy.mil/nvap**

U.S. Dept. of the Air Force: Lt. Col. Lee Shick **tel:** (210) 565-2338 (Mr. John Lowrance), **toll free:** 1-866-229-7074 (select option 4,
then 6 from menu), **DSN:** 665-4369; **fax:** (210) 565-2543, **DSN fax:** 665-2543;
E-mail: afpc/dpsfvotingpgmdlist@randolph.af.mil; **http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund/**

U.S. Marine Corps: GySgt Kenneth B. Warford **tel:** (703) 784-9511, **DSN:** 278-9511;
fax: (703) 784-9827, **DSN fax:** 278-9827; **E-mail:** warfordkb@manpower.usmc.mil
https://lnweb1.manpower.usmc.mil/manpower/mi/mra_ofct.nsf/mrp/Voting+Home

U.S. Coast Guard: YNCS Lori McNaught **tel:** (202)-267-1636, **fax:** (202) 267-4823;
E-mail: LMcNaught@comdt.uscg.mil, **http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/g-wp/g-wpm/g-wpm-1/VotingAssistance/Voting_Assistance.htm**

All of the above can also be reached through the DoD Voting Information Center and the FVAP Website.

Federal Voting Assistance Program

Department of Defense
1155 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC
20301-1155

PHONE:
(703) 588-1584
DSN 425-1584

FAX:
(703) 588-0108
DSN 425-0108

VOTING INFORMATION CENTER:
(703) 588-1343
DSN 425-1343

TOLL FREE:
1-800-438-VOTE (8683)

Visit our website for international toll-free phone and fax numbers.

E-MAIL:
vote@fvap.ncr.gov

Website:
www.fvap.gov

Vote!

Changes From The States

California: The new address for Monterey County is:
Monterey County Elections
PO Box 4400
Salinas, CA 93912-4400

California: The new address for Sacramento County is:
County of Sacramento
Voter Registration and Elections
7000 65th Street, Suite A
Sacramento, CA 95823-2315

Massachusetts: The new address for the Merrimac Town Clerk is:
Town Clerk, Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street
Merrimac, MA 01860

Ohio: The new address for the Fairfield County Board of Elections is:
Director, Fairfield County Board of Elections
951 Liberty Drive
Lancaster, OH 43130-8045

Ohio: The new address for the Ottawa County Board of Elections is:
Ottawa County Board of Elections
8444 W. State Route 163, Suite 101
Oak Harbor, OH 43449

Texas: The new address for Travis County is:
Travis County
P.O. Box 149325
Austin, TX 78714

Texas: The new address for Walker County is:
Walker County
1301 Sam Houston Ave., #114
Huntsville, TX 77340-4500

Please refer to the FVAP website for the most current information and update your 2004-05 Voting Assistance guide.

Absentee Voting Week - October 11 to 15, 2004

FVAP has designated October 11 to October 15, 2004 as Absentee Voting Week. Overseas voters should vote and return their state absentee ballot or the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) during this week. If you receive your state absentee ballot after submitting the FWAB, vote and return the state ballot up to and including election day.

For guidance on completing the FWAB and requirements for using the FWAB, read the September issue of this newsletter. Page 12 of the 2004-05 Voting Assistance Guide contains additional information (available at www.fvap.gov).

Federal Voting Assistance Program
Department of Defense
1155 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1155



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